

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET / CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603

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# The Goal is Within Reach

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## Your Help is Urgently Required!

The continued strength and vitality of The Art Institute of Chicago—Chicago's irreplaceable asset—depends on reaching the \$2.2 million Annual Contributors Fund goal by June 30. To date \$1.5 million has been received.

The goal is within reach, but to achieve our objective, additional support from Members, friends, corporations and foundations is urgently required. Your contribution will help preserve the great artistic treasures and the programs of the Art Institute. Please send in your gift today.

# THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET/CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603/TELEPHONE: (312) 443-3600/CABLE: ARTI

CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March, 1981

Dear Member and Friend:

The 2300 year-old legend of Alexander, the charismatic conquerer who continues to fascinate scholars, historians, artists and psychologists, will prevail at the Art Institute from May 16 to September 7. The youthful king, whose march across Asia enriched Greek civilization and influenced intellectual and artistic thought throughout the ages, will be represented by nearly 200 wonderful examples of ancient metalcraft, painting, sculpture, mosaics, architecture and gold of almost every conceivable form. Highlighting "The Search for Alexander" exhibition will be objects from the royal tomb at Vergina, discovered in 1977 by Greek archaeologist Professor Manolis Andronikos, who believes it to be that of Alexander's father, Philip II of Macedon. Dazzling pieces include a gold wreath of oak leaves, a diadem, armor and a 22-kilo gold chest in which the bones of the royal personage were found. Other important objects in the exhibition include the bronze krater from Derveni and small ivory heads of Philip and Alexander from the Vergina site. This exhibition is made possible by the National Bank of Greece and Time Incorporated, with the cooperation of the Greek Ministry of Culture and Sciences. Support for the Chicago showing is being provided by Beatrice Foods Co. and International Harvester. Complementing the Alexander exhibition will be a lecture program by the Department of Museum Education and a presentation of Greek films by our very active Film Center.

Because the Art Institute expects a large audience for this major international exhibition, special plans have been made for our Members to have preferred access. Next month you will receive notification of your membership privileges during "The Search for Alexander".

The gigantic Picasso Retrospective at New York's Museum of Modern Art last year may have obscured for many people the fact that 1981 is the true centennial year of the artist's birth. It will be celebrated in the Art Institute with an exhibition called MASTER DRAWINGS BY PICASSO from April 29 through June 14 in the East Wing and will include 102 drawings, watercolors and collages, ranging from 1895 to 1972, garnered from public and private collections in Europe and America. Concurrently with this exhibition, a selected group of Picasso prints (etchings, drypoints, aquatints, lithographs, woodcuts and linoleum cuts) will be shown in Gallery 109 of the Print and Drawing Department.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit The Morton G. Neumann Family Collection, now in the Morton Wing, I urge you to do so before April 19. This collection contains important examples of most major movements in European and American art from the first decade of the 20th century to the present. The history of this collection parallels the history of art in our time.

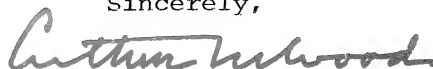
During your next visit, stop in the Burnham Gallery of Architecture, where an exhibition of 46 original architectural drawings from the Art Institute's permanent collection will introduce you to P.B. Wight, architect, contractor and critic. This gentleman, who lived from 1838 to 1925, is known for the ornate, polychromatic designs which introduced Americans to the architectural ideals of John Ruskin, the influential 19th century British art critic, and helped to establish the High Victorian Gothic style in the United States.

A happy piece of news I'd like to share with you has to do with the appointment of Lynn Elise Springer as Curator of European Decorative Arts, who is assuming her new position this month. Lynn comes to the Art Institute from the St. Louis Art Museum, and brings a broad knowledge of the Decorative Arts built over ten years of museum experience.

The School of the Art Institute will hold a benefit Fantasy Auction on Saturday, May 30 that promises to be unlike anything ever held here at the Art Institute and perhaps unlike anything held in Chicago. The evening will consist of a cocktail and dinner party followed and highlighted by the fantasy auction. It will include items that are not ordinarily available, such as parts in theatrical performances. For information about the benefit, contact the School Development Office at 443-3765.

I am sure you realize that the Art Institute depends on its Members and friends for their generous support. We have had a fine response from many of you and I hope that a large majority of our Members will give to our Annual Contributors Fund before June 30th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Arthur M. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and "W".

Arthur M. Wood  
Chairman



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